

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SP, PO

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE AND SPANISH SOCIALIST LEADERS REJECT ALLIANCES
WITH COMMUNISTS

1. AT JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE IN VIENNA FEBRUARY 12,
CHAIRMEN OF PORTUGUESE AND SPANISH SOCIALIST PARTIES,
MARIO SOARES AND FELIPE GONZALES (WHO PARTICIPATED IN
COMMEMORATION OF 1934 AUSTRIAN CIVIL WAR), REJECTED CONCEPT
OF POPULAR FRONT WITH COMMUNIST PARTIES IN THEIR COUNTRIES.

2. GONZALES SAID EVENTS IN PORTUGAL HAD HAD IMPORTANT
EFFECT IN SPAIN, AND FRENCH-STYLE SOCIALIST-COMMUNIST
COOPERATION WAS INAPPLICABLE FOR SPAIN. HE SAID SPANISH
SOCIALISTS WOULD FIGHT FOR FREEDOM OF ALL, INCLUDING
RIGHT OF COMMUNISTS TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS;
THEY WERE NOT FIGHTING AGAINST SPANISH COMMUNISTS AND
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WOULD DO SO ONLY IF PROVOKED. MEANWHILE, SPANISH

SOCIALISTS WOULD WATCH CAREFULLY TO PREVENT ANY OVERTHROW BY COMMUNISTS. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT SPANISH COMMUNISTS SEEMED TO BE MOVING AWAY FROM CUNHAL STALINISM TOWARD VIEWS OF ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY.

3. GONZALES COMPARED SPAIN TO POSTWAR GERMANY AND ITALY AS COUNTRY UNDERGOING INDUSTRIALIZATION AND RAPID ECONOMIC GROWTH THAT WAS ALSO BRINGING IMPROVED SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS. BRAKES MUST NOT BE PUT ON THIS DEVELOPMENT, HE SAID.

4. SOARES STRESSED PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS' AFFINITY WITH EUROPE'S DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS AS MEMBER OF SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL BUT SAID POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATIONS IN PORTUGAL MADE IT ILLOGICAL TO EXPECT PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS TO PURSUE SAME PROGRAMS AS HAD AUSTRIAN SOCIALISTS.

5. SOARES DESCRIBED CUNHAL AS STALINIST WHOM PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY, AS LOGICAL CONSEQUENCE OF EXPERIENCE IN 1975, WOULD DOWELL TO RELIEVE AS CHAIRMAN. COMMUNIST PARTIES THAT ARE INDEPENDENT OF MOSCOW, SOARES SAID, ARE SHOWING INCREASING ALIENATION FROM PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY.

6. SOARES EXPRESSED HIS PARTY'S CONCERN OVER MASSIVE SOVIET AND CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA AS WELL AS THAT OF SOUTH AFRICA. HE THOUGHT ONLY SUPER POWERS, IN COOPERATION WITH THREE ANGOLAN FACTIONS, COULD SECURE STABLE, INDEPENDENT ANGOLA; HOWEVER, HE SAID THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT PORTUGAL WOULD RECOGNIZE MPLA REGIME.

7. GONZALES AND SOARES WERE GUEST SPEAKERS AT EVENING SOCIALIST RALLY TO MARK 1934 WORKERS UPRISING IN AUSTRIA AGAINST DOLLFUS REGIME. BOTH SPOKE BRIEFLY ON EFFORTS OF THEIR PARTIES TO PROMOTE FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING AND DETERMINATION OF IBERIAN SOCIALISTS TO OPPOSE ANY ATTEMPT BY EXTREME RIGHT OR LEFT TO RE-ESTABLISH AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES.

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8. CHANCELLOR KREISKY, WHO HAD ARRANGED PERSONALLY FOR PRESENCE OF GONZALES AND SOARES AT RALLY AND WHO MADE CLOSING ADDRESS, PROMISED STRONG POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF AUSTRIAN SOCIALISTS TO THEIR SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE COLLEAGUES AND NOTED THAT WITH POLITICAL PROCESSES APPARENTLY ON RIGHT TRACK IN SPAIN AND PORTUGAL, ONLY DICTATORSHIPS REMAINING IN EUROPE ARE THOSE IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. BUCHANAN

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